

ASSEMBLING METHOD FOR DEVELOPING ROLLER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION AND RELATED ART:

The present invention relates to an
5 assembling method for a developing roller usable with
a developing device.

A conventional developing roller, a process
cartridge using such a developing roller, and an
assembling method for the developing roller, will be
10 described.

(Structure of developing roller)

Figure 10 illustrates an assembling method
for a developing roller 20. One end of a fixed magnet
28 is provided with a supporting shaft 28a and the
15 other end is provided with supporting shaft 28b having
a cut-away portion 28c for phase alignment of the
magnet 28. The developing roller 20 has a blank tube
member 18 and a flange 18a press-fitted thereinto.
The developing roller 20 is rotatably supported on a
20 developing device frame (unshown) of an image forming
apparatus by way of a bearing 27. A magnet 28 is
disposed in the developing roller 20. The developing
roller 20 is provided at t end thereof with a
developing roller gear 72. The developing roller 20
25 is urged toward the photosensitive drum with a
predetermined constant clearance (gap) therebetween by
spacer rollers 26.

(Process cartridge)

Figure 11 illustrates an exemplary process cartridge C using such a developing roller. A photosensitive member unit B of the cartridge C 5 includes charging means 11 for uniformly charging a surface of the photosensitive layer of a photosensitive drum 10 on which an electrostatic latent image is to be formed. It also includes cleaning means 14 for scraping residual toner which 10 has not been transferred onto a transfer material but remains on the photosensitive drum 10 off the surface of the photosensitive drum 10 and for storing the scraped toner in a residual toner container 12 thereof.

15 A developing device unit A includes a toner container 21 accommodating the toner and a developing roller 20 for forming a visualized image by supplying toner to the electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum 10. Furthermore, the 20 developing device unit A contains a developing blade 22 for applying triboelectric charge to the toner and forming a toner layer on a surface of the developing roller 20 and a preventing sheet 25 for toner sealing sheet for preventing toner leakage in the radial 25 direction of the developing roller 20. The developing device unit A and the photosensitive member unit B are rotatably coupled with each other by an engaging

pin 31, and there is provided an urging spring 32 for urging them.

The photosensitive drum 10 is rotatable in the clockwise direction as indicated by arrow R. The 5 charging means 11 is supplied with a constant voltage, and the surface of a photosensitive layer of the photosensitive drum 10 which is contacted to the charging means 11 is uniformly charged electrically. The photosensitive drum 10 receives a laser beam L 10 through an exposure opening 2 the laser beam L being modulated in accordance with image information to be printed, from optical means 1 of the image forming apparatus. By doing so, an electrostatic latent image is formed on photosensitive drum 10. Then, the latent 15 image is developed into a toner image on the photosensitive drum 10 by the function of the developing roller 20.

The toner in the toner container 21, is discharged to the developing roller 20 by rotation of 20 the toner feeding member 23. The developing roller 20 is rotated, and a layer of the toner which is triboelectrically charged by the developing blade 22, is formed on the surface of the developing roller 20. In this manner, a toner image is formed on the 25 photosensitive drum. The toner image is transferred onto a transfer material P by transferring means 3. Thus, a toner image is formed on the transfer material

P.

(Conventional assembling method)

The description will be made as to a conventional developing roller assembling method.

5 Figure 12 shows a conventional developing roller assembling apparatus. The conventional developing roller assembling apparatus comprises an apparatus base 100, a feeding turret 110 for feeding the developing rollers 20, and a flange feeding unit 130 for feeding the flanges 19. It further comprises a press-fitting unit 140 for press-fitting the flange 19 into the developing roller 20 while chucking the flange 19, and a robot hand 150 for mounting the flange 19 on the press-fitting unit 140 from the flange feeding unit 130.

10 In operation, the magnet 28 having one end to which the flange 18a is press-fitted is inserted into the blank tube 18 (Figure 10, (a)). Then, the blank tube 18 into which the magnet 28 has been inserted is set at position C on the feeding turret 110 (Figure 12). At this time, an end surface 18b of the flange 18a is abuted to an abutment surface 111 of the feeding turret 110 so that vertical position of the magnet is determined. Simultaneously, the lower clamp 25 112 clamps the lower portion of the blank tube 18. The feeding turret 110 is rotated in the clockwise direction (L) in the Figure to feed the mounted blank

tube 18. When the blank tube 18 reaches a position D, the upper clamp 113 clamps the upper portion of the blank tube 18 to determine the radial position. Subsequently, the blank tube 18 is fed to a flange 5 press-fitting position E.

The flange 19 is fed in another route (left side in the Figure) by a conveyer belt 131 provided in the flange feeding unit 130. When the flange 19 is fed to a predetermined position, the conveyer belt 131 10 is stopped. The fed flange 19 is taken up by a robot hand 150, and is fed to a flange attracting portion 141 of the press-fitting unit 140. The flange attracting portion 141 is provided with a recess (unshown) in a nesting alignment with the flange 19. 15 When the flange 19 is fed to the recess, an air pump (unshown) is operated for air attraction of the flange 19.

When the blank tube 18 is fed to the flange 20 press-fitting position E on the feeding turret 110, the press-fitting unit 140 attracting the flange 19 moves downward. Then, the flange 19 is press-fitted into the opening 18b of the blank tube 18. When the press-fitting of the flange 19, the operation of the air pump is stopped, and the unit 140 returns to the 25 home position.

Figure 13 shows an assembling method of the developing roller 20. The magnet 28 is provided at

its one end with a supporting shaft 28a and is provided at the other end with a supporting shaft 28b having a cut-away portion 28c effective to determine a phase position of the magnet 28. The developing 5 roller 20 has a blank tube 18 into which the flange 18a is press-fitted. In the assembling operation, the supporting shaft 28b is inserted through the opening 18b of the blank tube 18. The flange 19 is press-fitted by way of the supporting shaft 28a projected 10 outwardly at least partly from the opening 18b of the blank tube 18.

Figure 14 is sectional views, illustrating the states before and after the flange press-fitting. Figure 14, (a) shows a state in which the flange is 15 not yet press-fitted, and Figure 14, (b) shows the state in which the flange has been press-fitted. The magnet 28 inserted into the blank tube 18 has a large diameter portion 28d which is contacted to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. At this time, 20 the axis 201 of the magnet 28 is eccentric relative to the axis 200 of the blank tube 18. In the case that magnet 28 has a circular cross-section, and that dimensional difference between the large diameter portion 28d of the magnet 28 and the inside 25 circumference 20a of the blank tube 18 is small, the amount of the eccentric is small. Therefore, a constant clearance can be relatively easily provided

between the supporting shaft 28a and the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19. And, the flange 19 can be press-fitted into the opening 18b (for example, Japanese Laid-open Patent Application2000 - 5 283151 and Japanese Laid-open Patent Application2001 - 134097).

However, as shown in Figure 15, when a fixed magnet 29 having a small diameter, the dimensional difference between the large diameter portion 29d of the magnet 29 and the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18 is large. As a result, the eccentricity between the axis 200 of the blank tube 18 and the axis 201 of the magnet 29 is large. Then, in the step of 10 press-fitting the flange 19, an interference occurs between the supporting shaft 29a of the magnet 29 and the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19. When the diameter is small as with the magnet 29, the axis 201 of the magnet 29 largely deviates from the axis 202 of the flange 19. For this reason, the 15 operativity in press-fitting the flange 19 into the blank tube 18 into which the magnet 29 has been inserted, is poor.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the present invention to provide a developing roller 20 assembling method wherein a developer carrying member and a magnet can be easily assembled.

It is another object of the present invention

to provide a developing roller assembling method
wherein the operativity in assembling the magnet and
the developing roller is improved. According to an
aspect of the present invention, there is provided an
5 assembling method for a developing roller usable with
a developing device, said developing roller including
a developer carrying member in the form of a hollow
cylinder, a flange member provided at an end of said
developer carrying member, and a magnet provided in
10 said developer carrying member. said method comprising
an inserting step of inserting said magnet having at
least one projection into an inside through an opening
of said developer carrying member; an abutting step of
abutting said at least one projection to an inside
15 surface of the cylinder; and an engaging step of
engaging said flange member with said opening by
penetrating said flange member through a shaft of said
magnet projected out of said opening.

These and other objects, features and
20 advantages of the present invention will become more
apparent upon a consideration of the following
description of the preferred embodiments of the
present invention taken in conjunction with the
accompanying drawings.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 1 illustrates an example of a
configuration of an end of a stationary magnet having

a small diameter, according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

5 Figure 2 illustrates an example of a configuration of an end of a stationary magnet having a small diameter, according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

10 Figure 3 illustrates an example of a configuration of an end of a stationary magnet having a small diameter, according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

15 Figure 4 is a schematic view of a developing roller in a developing roller assembling device, wherein one projected portion of the stationary magnet is abutted.

20 Figure 5 illustrates a structure for phase alignment of the stationary magnet in a developing roller assembling apparatus implementing an assembling method according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

25 Figure 6 illustrates a computation of an end of a stationary magnet having a non-circular cross-section, according to an assembling method of a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 illustrates a large eccentricity of the non-circular stationary magnet in conjunction with a state show in (b) in Figure 6.

Figure 8 illustrates a computation of an end

of a stationary magnet having a non-circular cross-section in which a plurality of outward projections are provided.

5 Figure 9 illustrates a structure for phase alignment of a small diameter stationary magnet in an assembling apparatus implementing the developing roller assembling method according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

10 Figure 10 schematically illustrates a conventional developing roller.

Figure 11 illustrates an exemplary process cartridge using a developing roller.

15 Figure 12 is a schematic view of a conventional developing roller.

Figure 13 schematically illustrates a conventional assembling operation for the developing roller.

20 Figure 14 illustrates insertion of a magnet having a large diameter into a developer carrying member.

Figure 15 illustrates insertion of a magnet having a small diameter into a developer carrying member in conventional method.

25 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:

The description will be made as to a first embodiment of the present invention. The description

will be made as to a structure of a fixed small diameter magnet which is mounted according to a developing roller assembling method of the present invention. Then, a structure of an assembling apparatus which implements an assembling method for the developing roller of this embodiment will be described. The same reference numerals are assigned in all of the elements to the elements having the corresponding functions, and the detailed description thereof is omitted for simplicity.

5 (First embodiment)

According to a conventional method, the eccentricity of the magnet 29 relative to the blank tube (developer carrying member) is large, as described hereinbefore. According to this embodiment, the magnet (magnet member) 29 is provided at its end portion with a projected configuration (projected portion) 29c. This is effective to prevent an eccentricity of the magnet 29. Figure 1 through Figure 3 illustrate examples of the projected configuration 29c provided at the end of the magnet 29. In the example of Figure 1, the projected configuration is extended all around; in the example of Figure 2, two projected configurations are provided; and in the example of Figure 3, the projected configuration is provided at one point.

20 25 In the example of Figure 1, the projected

configuration 29c portion is extended along the full circumference of the magnet 29. Therefore, when the magnet 29 is inserted into the blank tube, the projected configuration 29c is abutted to the inside 5 circumference 20a of the blank tube 18.

By doing so, the eccentricity between the axis of the magnet 29 and the axis 200 of the blank tube 18 made small. As a result, the clearance between the supporting shaft 29a of the magnet 29 and 10 the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19 is substantially constant all around. Thus, the flange 19 can be easily press-fitted into the opening 18b of the blank tube 18.

In the example of Figure 2, the magnet 29 is 15 provided at its end with two projected configuration portions. By doing so, when the magnet 29 is inserted into the blank tube 18, projected configuration 29c portion is contacted to or abutted to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. By doing so, 20 the eccentricity between the axis 201 of the magnet 29 and the axis 200 of the blank tube 18 made small. As a result, the clearance between the supporting shaft 29a the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19 is substantially constant all around. Thus, the flange 25 19 can be easily press-fitted into the opening 18b of the blank tube 18.

In the example of Figure 3, the magnet 29 is

provided at its end with one projected configuration portion. By doing so, when the magnet 29 is inserted into the blank tube 18, projected configuration 29c portion is contacted to or abutted to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. By doing so, the eccentricity between the axis of the magnet 29 and the axis 200 of the blank tube 18 made small. As a result, the clearance between the supporting shaft 29a and the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19 is substantially constant all around. Thus, the flange 19 can be easily press-fitted into the opening 18b of the blank tube 18.

In the case of the magnet 29 having a 29c as shown in Figures 2 and 3, it is desired to assuredly contact the projected configuration portion 29c to the inside circumference 28a of the blank tube 18. The description will be made as to a method of assuring the contact or the abutment between the projected configuration portion 29c and the inside circumference 20a. Figure 4 schematically shows a developing roller feeding portion which is effective to contact the projected configuration portion 29c at one point of the magnet 29. The abutment surface 111 of the feeding turret 110 is provided with a phase aligning portion 114. In addition, a magnetic plate 160 is disposed outside of the position D of the feeding turret 110 and the position E of the flange press-

fitting.

Figure 5 illustrates a phase alignment structure of the magnet 29 in the developing roller assembling apparatus. The phase aligning portion 114 of the feeding turret 110 is provided with a phase alignment hole 115 having a diameter lightly larger than that of the supporting shaft 29b, and a flat surface 116. The blank tube 18 is set at the position C of the feeding turret 110. At this time, the insertion of the magnet 29 is such that cut-away portion 29e of the supporting shaft 29b and the plane 116 of the phase alignment hole 115 face each other. Here, the one point projected configuration portion of the magnet 29 is at the outside position of the feeding turret 110.

In Figure 4, when the blank tube 18 is fed to the position D, the clamp 113 clamps the upper portion of the blank tube 18. Simultaneously, the magnet 29 is attracted on the magnetic plate 160. And, the one point projected configuration portion 29c is contacted or abutted to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. Thereafter, the blank tube 18 is fed to the flange press-fitting position E. Then, the flange 19 is press-fitted into the blank tube 18. In the case of two point projected configuration 29c, when the blank tube 18 is mounted to the feeding turret 110, the phase of the two projected

configuration portions 29c is such that they are at outside positions of the feeding turret 110.

(Second embodiment)

5 The description will be made as to a second embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the structure of the assembling apparatus for the developing roller is similar to that of the assembling apparatus of the first embodiment, except that structure of the small diameter stationary magnet 10 is different. In this embodiment, the small diameter stationary magnet (magnet) 30 has a non-circular cross-section, by which the eccentricity of the magnet 30 can be avoided.

15 When the use is made with the fixed magnet 30 having a non-circular column configuration as shown in Figure 6, will be described. When a large diameter portion 30e of the fixed magnet 30 is contacted to or abutted to the inside circumference 20a (Figure 6, (b)), the eccentricity between the axis 200 of the blank tube 18 and the axis 201 of the magnet 30 is large. 20 As a result, as shown in Figure 7, there arises a liability that supporting shaft 30a of the magnet 30 interferes the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19.

25 The magnet 30 is inserted into the blank tube 18. As shown in Figure 6, (a), the outwardly projected configuration portion (outward projection)

30c of the magnet 30 is abutted to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. By doing so, the eccentricity between the axis 200 of the blank tube 18 and the axis 201 can be minimized. As a 5 result, the clearance between the supporting shaft 30a of the magnet 30 and the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19 is substantially constant all around. Thus, the flange 19 can be easily press-fitted into the opening 18b of the blank tube 18.

10 In this embodiment, the projected configuration portion 30c of the magnet 30 is provided at one position. In the case that there are provided a plurality of projected configuration portions 30c as shown in Figure 8, two projected configuration 15 portions 30c are contacted to the inside circumference of the blank tube 18. By doing so, a constant clearance can be provided between the consideration and the inside circumference 19a of the flange 19.

20 The description will be made as to the means for contacting the projected configuration 30c to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. In the case of the feeding turret 110 shown in Figure 4, the blank tube 18 is set at the position C of the feeding turret 110. At this time, as shown in Figure 9, the 25 magnet 30 is inserted such that cut-away portion 30d and the plane 116 of the phase alignment hole 115 face each other. Then, the 30c is disposed at an outside

portion of the feeding turret 110. In Figure 4, when the blank tube 18 is fed to the position D, the clamp 113 clamps the upper portion of the blank tube 18. Simultaneously, the magnet 30 is attracted to the 5 magnetic plate 160, the projected configuration portion 30c is contacted to the inside circumference 20a of the blank tube 18. Thereafter, the blank tube 18 is fed to the flange press-fitting position E, and the flange 19 can be easily press-fitted into the 10 opening 18b of the blank tube 18.

[Embodiment 1]

The assembling method according to the first Embodiment is summarized as follows:

An assembling method for a developing roller 15 (20) usable with an electrophotographic developing device (A), said developing roller including a developer carrying member (18) in the form of a hollow cylinder, a flange member (19) provided at an end of said developer carrying member, and a magnet (29) 20 provided in said developer carrying member, said method comprising:

an inserting step of inserting said magnet (29) having a small diameter and having at least one projection (29c) into an inside through an opening 25 (18b) of said developer carrying member (18);

an abutting step of abutting said at least one projection (29c) to an inside surface of the

cylinder (18); and

an engaging step of engaging said flange member with said opening (18b) by penetrating said flange member through a shaft (29a) and of said magnet projected out of said opening.

5 [Embodiment 2]

The assembling method according to the second Embodiment is summarized as follows:

An assembling method for a developing roller 10 usable with an electrophotographic developing device (A), said developing roller including a developer carrying member (18), a flange member (19) provided at an end of said developer carrying member (18), and a magnet (30) provided in said developer carrying member (18), said method comprising:

an inserting step of inserting said magnet (30) which has a columnar configuration having a non-circular cross-section and having at least one outer projection (30c), into an inside of said developer carrying member (18) having a hollow cylindrical shape;

an abutting step of abutting said at least one outer projection (30c) to an inside surface of the cylindrical developer carrying member (18); and

25 an engaging step of engaging said flange member (19) with an opening (18b) by penetrating said flange member (19) through us shaft of said magnet

(30) projected out of said opening.

[Embodiment 3]

If abutting step, the magnets 29, 30 are abutted to the inside surface 20a off the cylindrical developer carrying member 18.

[Embodiment 4]

In the abutting step, when the magnet 29, 30 is abutted to the inside surface 20a of the developer carrying member 18, a cop-away portion 280 provided at 10 an end 28b of the magnets 29, 30 can be used as positioning means.

As described in the foregoing, according to the embodiments of the present invention, the magnet can be inserted into the developer carrying member 15 with suppressed eccentricity by abutting a projection provided on the magnet to the inside surface of the cylindrical developer carrying member. In addition, according to the embodiment of the present invention, the developer carrying member and magnet can be easily 20 assembled.

As described in the foregoing according to the present invention, a developing roller can be easily assembled.

While the invention has been described with 25 reference to the structures disclosed herein, it is not confined to the details set forth, and this application is intended to cover such modification or

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changes as may come within the purposes of the
improvements.

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